

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 01036 151626Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-02
SNM-05 /066 W
-----025289 160535Z /11

R 151535Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5695
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 1036

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING SENT FROM USIS/PANAMA ACTION USINFO INFO SECSTATE
DATED 15 FEB 1978 REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO
QUOTE

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY -- REACTION TO THE SENATE TREATY DEBATE SPARSE
FEBRUARY 15 WITH ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED
CRITICA. EDITORIAL, "THE TRUTH IN A LOUD VOICE," RE-PRINTS
IN TRANSLATION THE BESINGER-DOLE LETTER (SEE FEBRUARY 14 USINFO).
THE LETTER VOUCHES FOR PANAMANIAN COOPERATION WITH THE DEA
ATTESTING TO THE FACT THAT PANAMA "HAS INTERCEPTED LARGE SHIPMENTS
OF DRUGS BEING SHIPPED TO THE UNITED STATES."
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2. REFERRING TO THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE TORIJOS FAMILY,
CRITICA FURTHER TERMS THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE TORIJOS
FAMILY "UNCOUTH AND STUPID." CRITICA CONCLUDES: "NO MEMBER
OF THIS DECENT FAMILY COULD BE INVOLVED IN A CRIME OF THIS
NATURE (BECAUSE) THEY HAVE BUILT A REPUTATION OF HONOR IN
PANAMANIAN SOCIETY AND SINCE THEIR BROTHER IS CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT

IT WOULD BE ENTIRELY UNTHINKABLE THAT THEY WOULD
TARNISH HIS GOOD NAME. THERE IS A SENATOR BEHIND THIS WHO
WITH HIS CRONIES THINKS HE CAN DESTROY 14 YEARS OF WORK. IT
WOULD BE RELATIVELY EASY TO UNDO, BUT NOT WHAT IS BUILT ON THE
UNSHAKEABLE FOUNDATION OF SACRIFICE AND PATRIOTIC FERVOR."

3. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MATUTINO FRONT-PAGED THE THIRD DRUG
BUST INVOLVING AN AMERICAN CITIZEN IN LESS THAN A WEEK, A
TYPICAL CASE OF A YOUNG AMERICAN ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE LARGE
AMOUNTS OF COCAINE THROUGH THE TOCUMEN AIRPORT IN THE FALSE
SIDES OF HIS SUITCASE.

4. THE OFFICIAL GOP STATION, RADIO LIBERTAD, IS RE-BROADCASTING
THE SECOND AND THIRD DAYS OF THE SENATE TREATY DEBATES IN SPANISH
FROM TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY OF THIS WEEK FROM 7:30 TO 10:30
P.M. ITEM UNQUOTE
JORDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DRUG CONTROL, CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Expiration:
Film Number: D780071-0019
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780252/aaaabsfy.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b2e3f2d8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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